

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 SY-04 FBIE-00 A-01

IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 OPR-02 USSS-00

OC-06 CCO-00 NIC-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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O P 181410Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5644

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELFAST PRIORITY

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0643

LONDON ALSO FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI

SUBJ: 28 DEAD IN TERRORIST BOMBINGS

REF: DUBLIN 0642

1. ACCORDING TO LATEST NEWS REPORTS ON MAY 17 BOMBINGS IN DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN, 28 PEOPLE ARE DEAD. MORE THAN 100 ARE VERY SERIOUSLY INJURED, AND SOME ARE NOT EXPECTED TO SURVIVE. MAJORITY OF VICTIMS ARE WOMEN. POLICE REPORT THAT THEY HAVE SO FAR DISCOVERED NO RPT NOT AMCITS AMONG DEAD OR INJURED, BUT THEN HAVE STILL NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED.

2. THIS WAS WORST SINGLE DAY IN HISTORY OF IRISH VIOLENCE, NORTH OR SOUTH. CAR BOMBS WERE PLACED WHERE THEY WOULD INJURE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING CITY CENTER DURING FRIDAY EVENING RUSH HOUR WHEN CITY BUSES WERE ON STRIKE AND MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE WOULD BE IN THE STREETS. NO RPT NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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WARNING WAS GIVEN.

3. TERRORIST RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBINGS HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. NOT UNNATURALLY, SPECULATION CENTERS ON NI PROTESTANT EXTREMISTS RESPONDING TO IRA BOMBINGS IN NORTH. HIGH RANKING FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD CHARGE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE APPEARED TO HIM TO BE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT AFTER ALL BE WORK OF IRA, WHICH, IF IT IS TO SUCCEED, MUST SOMEHOW INVOLVE SOUTH IN NORTHERN VIOLENCE. IN SHORT, AT THIS STAGE NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING, EXCEPT THAT CARS USED FOR PLANTING BOMBS WERE REPORTED HIJACKED RECENTLY IN BELFAST. PROVO IRA HAS CONDEMNED BOMBINGS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBINGS HAS ALSO BEEN DENIED BY UVF AND UDA (NI PROTESTANT EXTREMISTS ORGANIZATIONS). UDA PRESS SPOKESMAN, HOWEVER, IS QUOTED LOCALLY AS SAYING HE WAS "VERY HAPPY.... THERE IS A WAR WITH THE FREE STATE AND NOW WE ARE LAUGHING AT THEM."

4. IN HIS FORMAL STATEMENT ON INCIDENT, PM COSGRAVE SAID THAT "EVERYONE WHO HAS PRACTICED VIOLENCE OR PREACHED VIOLENCE OR CONDONED VIOLENCE MUST BEAR A SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAY 17 OUTRAGES. OPPOSITION LEADER LYNCH HIT SAME THEME, SAYING THAT "EVERY ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN OF BOMBING IN ANY PART OF OUR COUNTRY OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS HAS THE BLOOD OF THESE INNOCENT VICTIMS ON THEIR HANDS.

5. COMMENT: MAGNITUDE AND VICIOUSNESS OF BOMBINGS ARE APPALLING. THEIR OCCURRENCE, HOWEVER, IS NOT IN ITSELF SURPRISING. THERE HAVE BEEN SIMILAR INCIDENTS ON SMALLER SCALE IN THE PAST, AND WE HAVE ALWAYS EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE SPORADIC RECURRENCES IN REPUBLIC SO LONG AS VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN THE NORTH. THERE ARE FEW SECURITY MEASURES HERE OF THE KIND PREVALENT IN THE NORTH, AS REPUBLIC, BY AND LARGE, HAS BEEN REMARKABLY PEACEFUL. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR TERRORISTS TO CROSS THE BORDER AND PERPETRATE VIOLENCE. POLITICALLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THIS KIND OF VIOLENCE AND THE KIND ENDEMIC IN NI -- EVEN THOUGH DISTINCTION WOULD CERTAINLY BE LOST TODAY ON SURVIVING VICTIMS AND RELATIVES OF THE DEAD. MAIN DIFFERENCE IS THAT THERE IS NO COMMUNITY BASE WHATEVER FOR VIOLENCE IN REPUBLIC, SO THAT TERRORISTS PROBABLY HAVE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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COME FOR CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES, AND OPERATE IN HOSTILE (BUT VULNERABLE) SOCIETY. THIS WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THE KIND OF CONTINUOUS VIOLENCE KNOWN IN NI, ALTHOUGH SPORADIC AND VICIOUS ATTACKS SUCH AS THE PRESENT ONE COULD WELL RECUR. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, BOMBING, CASUALTIES, EXPLOSIONS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DUBLIN00643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740124-0201
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740536/aaaabfse.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DUBLIN 0642
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 28 DEAD IN TERRORIST BOMBINGS
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005